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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
10 April 1966

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Political Situation in South Vietnam
(As of 9:00 A.M.)

1. The threat of violence in Da Nang, Hue, and Saigon diminished on Easter Sunday, although the non-military pressure groups are still clamoring for an end to military rule.

2. General Dinh, the newly appointed I Corps commander, was escorted today, one month after the ouster of General Thi, from the Da Nang air base to I Corps headquarters in the city proper without incident. He then called a meeting of the unit commanders and ordered all ARVN units to return to their proper areas. [redacted] the rebel commanders expressed confidence in Dinh's ability to control the situation. Early press reports indicate that the Vietnamese marines at the air base were to be flown out on 10 April via C-123 aircraft.

3. In Saigon, the Buddhist Institute apparently held a press conference, attended by Tri Quang, which repeated the demand for elected civilian government. The "Leadership Committee of the Buddhist Forces" also repeated its demands for the withdrawal of government troops from Da Nang, the release of prisoners, the non-punishment of anti-government workers, and the election of a constituent assembly in four to six months. The press comments that the Leadership Committee is organizing for an all-out effort against military rule. There is, however, no official reporting on this press conference.

4. Several Catholic, Hoa Hao, Cao Dai, VNQDD (Nationalist), and Dai Viet groups met this morning in Saigon to form a 36-man Joint Committee of the United

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Peoples Front. The Front read its demands for a civilian government, an end to violence, and a meeting between the Armed Forces Congress and religious and nationalist groups. Embassy officials view the Front as a move by those groups to counteract both Buddhist influence over the government and the proposed National Political Congress, which the Buddhists hope to influence to their own ends.

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